

1991 an Expert Committee to go into the details of all aspects of the Pulichintala Project and prepare a project report in a manner acceptable to the Central Water Commission.

accordingly pursuing the matter with the State Governments. The Project can be considered for acceptance only after the satisfactory resolution of the associated issues including environmental and forest clearances.

### **Vamsadhara Project Stage II**

355. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vamsadhara Project Stage II is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken to accord clearance to the project; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Advisory Committee for the clearance of the projects had deferred the consideration of the project for want of resolution of inter-State issues concerning submergence of land in Orissa. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is also required to obtain clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Welfare from environmental angle and for rehabilitation and resettlement issues respectively.

(b) and (c) In a meeting of the officials of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa convened in the Ministry in March, 1991 for resolution of inter-State issues, it was decided that the officials of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Central Water Commission should inspect the site jointly for examining the necessity of the hydraulic model studies. The Central Water Commission is

[Translation]

### **Development of Agriculture in Backward Areas**

356. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural productivity has declined due to continuous rise in the prices of agricultural inputs;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to control the prices of agricultural inputs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for the benefit of farmers living in the backward, hilly and plateau regions of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN). (a) No, Sir. The agricultural productivity has shown a sustained growth rate of 2.47% per annum during the period 1967-68 to 1989-90.

(b) and (c) In order to keep the cost of production within the limits the Government have been providing major agriculture inputs viz., fertilisers, power, irrigation, pesticides etc., at reasonable and subsidised prices. In fact, prices of fertilisers, which is a major purchased input have not been raised since 1986.

(d) and (e) Preference is being given to the farmers of backward areas, hilly areas and plateau regions while implementing the production oriented schemes with a view to benefit the farmers of these areas of the country. Agricultural extension services are being re-organised to transfer farm technology to the farmers of all categories including hilly and backward areas.

(f) Question does not arise.

[English]

#### **Bhimkund Dam Project of Orissa**

357. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted the Bhimkund Irrigation Project proposal to the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Orissa Government proposes to take up Bhimkund Multi-purpose project in two stages. Stage-I of the Project envisages construction of a dam on river Baitarani near Neopara and two Power Houses with total installed capacities of  $3 \times 16$  MW and  $3 \times 115$  MW respectively. It also envisages flood control benefits to an area of 1400 sq. km. in Baitarani Delta. Stage-II of the Project envisages irrigation benefits to a new area of about 40500

hectares in addition to stabilisation of irrigation under Akhuapada Delta from the regulated releases from the Bhimkund reservoir. The project proposal for Stage-I of the project estimated to cost Rs. 328.15 crores was received from the State Government in June, 1980 and observations of Central Water Commission were communicated to the State Government. As the State Government did not comply with the observations for more than one year, the Project was deleted from the list of pending projects in October, 1983. The detailed project report for Stage-II has not been received at the Centre.

(c) The State Government has yet to submit a modified report for Stage-I and Stage-II of the Project.

#### **Increase in Royalty of Raw Materials**

358. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have demanded increase in royalty of raw materials such as iron ores, manganese ores, chrome ores etc. in view of the increase in prices of such materials in the International Market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BAI RAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) In response to the questionnaire circulated by the Study Group constituted by Department of Mines to make recommendations for revision of Royalty Rates, various suggestions were received from State Governments. Increase in the rates of Royalty on iron ore, manganese ore and chrome